

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A drawer-type washing machine comprising:

a housing having one open side;

5 a cabinet which can be drawn out forward through the open side of said housing, said cabinet being positioned within said housing;

a washing bath positioned within said cabinet for washing the laundry; and

10 drawing means provided between said housing and said cabinet for automatically drawing out said cabinet.

2. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 1, wherein said drawing means comprises:

15 guide panels provided in a side of said cabinet for guiding said cabinet to be drawn out forward;

a driving roller provided within said housing, said driving roller being rotational in said guide panel while contacting therewith; and

20 a driving motor for rotating said driving roller to shift said cabinet forward and backward.

3. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 2, wherein said drawing means further comprises a driving gear
25 installed in an axis of said driving motor and a driven gear

installed in an axis of said driving roller for engaging into
said driving gear.

4. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 2,
5 wherein said driving roller is made of an elastic material.

5. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 2,
wherein said guide panel has upper and lower rails, each of said
rails contacting with said driving roller.

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6. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 2,
further comprising a guide rail within said housing and a
support roller attached to said cabinet, said support roller
being rotational on said guide rail.

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7. A drawer-type washing machine comprising:

a housing having one open side and partitioned into a
plurality of compartments;

cabinets which can be drawn out forward through the open
20 side of said housing, each of said cabinets being positioned
in each of said compartments;

washing baths for washing the laundry, each of said
washing baths being positioned within each of said cabinets;
and

25 locking means provided between said housing and said

cabinets for restraining said cabinet from being drawn out forward from said housing.

8. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 7,
5 wherein said locking means comprises:

solenoids having actuating rods for linearly moving upon being powered, each of said solenoids being provided within each of said compartments for receiving each of said cabinets; and

fitting members for performing a fitting functions upon
10 movement of said actuating rods, each of said fitting members being provided in each of said cabinets.

9. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 8,
wherein said locking means further comprises control means, if
15 at least one of said cabinets is opened, for actuating said locking means in the others of said cabinets from being opened.

10. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 9,
wherein said control means comprises:

20 sensor means provided in said housing for detecting open/closed positions of said cabinets; and

a micom for actuating said locking means in response to signals applied from said sensor means.

25 11. A drawer-type washing machine according to claim 10,

wherein said sensor means are composed of limit switches, in which each of said limit switches is pressed by the side of one of said cabinets to apply an off signal in the closed position of said one of cabinets, and returns to apply an on signal in
5 the open position of said one of cabinets.

12. A locking method of a drawer-type washing machine comprising the following steps of:

judging if a first cabinet is opened when the washing
10 machine is powered on;

if the first cabinet is judged as opened, powering a second locking means to locking a second cabinet;

if the first cabinet is judged as closed, judging if a second cabinet is opened; and

15 if the second cabinet is judged as opened, powering the first locking means to lock the first cabinet.